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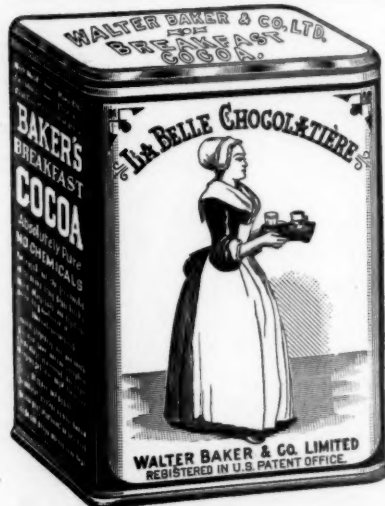
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Vol. VII

SEPTEMBER, 1912

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## The President's Desk

### A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

THE opening of the school year is a time of special interest to parents, teachers, and children. The children who for several months have had outdoor life and freedom are now to begin another side of their education. Teachers, many of whom have given a part of the summer to study in some of the summer schools in order to be better fitted for their great work, are meeting their pupils and planning for the year's courses of study.

Parents may assign a part of the child's education to the teacher, but the larger part is to be given by the parents if the child is to be equipped to meet life's responsibilities faithfully and honestly. The physical and spiritual culture of child and youth is primarily the work of fathers and mothers. Unless they do it, the future of the children is handicapped and blighted.

The laws of life are given in the Ten Commandments and in the Golden Rule. They were given to rule the lives of every child of earth, and through keeping them he builds the ladder by which he rises to the Heaven above.

The teaching of these laws of life cannot begin too early. They are the seeds of character. They must be planted and cultivated and nurtured by the parents. Not in set lessons but as the happenings of daily life show the opportunity they will be woven into the life of the child.

The mind and body are controlled by the spirit so that the most important thing in life is to have the controlling power based on true foundations.

Too much stress has been given to intellectual culture and too little to spiritual nurture, which is the balance-wheel that makes life full and rich and useful.

God is the centre of all life, the One "without whom we can do nothing, but with whom we may remove mountains." Only ten laws of life has He given, yet if they were kept, courts and prisons could be abolished. More than half the work of courts and prisons is given to violations of the com-

mand, "Thou Shalt Not Steal," and every thief was a little innocent child who might have been taught that in a world where thousands live the property of others must be respected. A mother could have done it, but she did not realize what her omission would mean to the future of her child.

More than half the murders and other crimes are attributable to liquor.

Many mothers might have safeguarded their children by teaching self-control from babyhood. They did not realize what danger confronts the individual who lacks the power of self-control, and they failed to equip the child with the quality which would have given him power to say no. Of what use is all the knowledge and all the wealth, unless within is a spirit guided and directed by Divine laws. To nurture the spirit is the God-given opportunity and responsibility of every father and mother. Childhood's possibilities are limitless.

#### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD STUDY

EVERY parent with real love for the children will ask, What must I teach the children? and, How can I best do it? To meet these questions, either in connection with church or school, or independent of either, a parents' circle for child study is vital in importance. If teachers give years to preparation, how much greater is the need of parents.

The National Congress of Mothers stands ready to help in forming parents' associations, to outline courses of study, to give information on child nurture, to answer questions and problems concerning children.

THE report of a committee appointed under resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County to investigate the operation of the Juvenile Court has just been published. Serious charges as to the administration have been given wide publicity through an article on "*The Juvenile Court and the Charity Graft*" in a recent

#### THE JUVENILE COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

issue of a well-known magazine. The best friends of the Juvenile Court and Probation system have always recognized the probability of just such difficulties. There is no magic in a Juvenile Court. It is only a machine which for good service depends on a skilled hand at the helm. There has been some misconception as to what type of skill was required for the efficient running of this machine for the protection of children. It has been placed in the hands of those whose practice and experience have been more largely associated with legal procedure and penal methods than with educational problems of child nurture, and who have never given special study to child development and home-making.

The fundamental qualifications for a good Juvenile Court lie in having judge and probation officers men and women whose hearts are warm toward children, who understand child nurture.

The judge's position is judicial and important, but *character-building* is the keynote of a probation officer's work. To undo what is wrong, to construct what is true and good is the primary work of a probation officer.

It relates to the parents as well as the child. The whole system is so new that many have not grasped the requisites for real success, and even those who have find it difficult to secure people who have the qualifications for successful probation work. The placing of children in other homes than their own is also a matter requiring judgment and mature thought. It is a grave responsibility. Methods need greater study by specialists in child nurture to become adjusted. It is to be expected that the Juvenile Court and probation system will be subjected to deserved criticism. It does not condemn the system. It merely indicates that its administration must be perfected. It is an educational work, and to be well administered a knowledge of child nurture precedes in importance a knowledge of law. Procedure of a criminal court does not fit the work of a Juvenile Court, yet in most cases those who administer children's courts are chosen among those who deal with every phase of court work. The time will come when the responsibility for this work will be considered so great that only those who are specially fitted by knowledge of child nurture will be chosen to administer it. Each child appearing before the court is there from circumstances beyond his control.

The problem not only relates to him individually, but it relates to his father and mother and his environment. He stands in the court as a child needing treatment and guidance. The training of any child is one requiring study and insight into child nature, but the training of the children whose lives have been twisted by wrong treatment of various kinds requires the hand of a specialist in the science of child nurture. Each child, each home has its individual problem. Those who assume the direction of a child's future should have mature judgment and experience of life. They should also have faith in the possibilities for good in every child, for without that little can be done. They must have a real love for children and ability to win children's love, and infinite patience. Character-building is a slow process.

#### WHAT CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE CAN DO FOR YOU

THE mother who really wishes to fit her child for life cannot do it successfully unless she gets the broad view of the relation between the quiet home work she is doing and the place her child is being prepared to fill efficiently through her foundation work. Mothers' work relates to the nation's life, and the treatment of the child inside and outside the home is therefore something of which she cannot afford to be ignorant. There is not an article published in CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE that does not bear on the problems of childhood.

It is impossible in the limited space of any magazine to give all that mothers should know. It is possible, however, to guide them to the study and reading of all that is authoritative and helpful. If you know how to get the most out of the magazine, it should do that for you. Note the books every mother should have. If you cannot buy them ask for them at the library. Mothers who desire advice may receive it by writing to CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

## Child Study for Parents; Its Bearing on Child Welfare

By ELIZABETH BIRNEY

WE speak lightly of Child-Welfare often without realizing that it is world-welfare—that every line of human endeavor, every effort for social betterment is embraced in it. We grasp the importance of this better if we state it conversely. All social problems would be solved if ideal training could be given every child in his own home.

It is to women chiefly that this training is intrusted.

As teachers and mothers we do the great nurture-work of the world. It is given to us to guard and brood over growing life. We who go down into the dark with God to create life must travail in pain with that child over and over again before he is born into his full possibility as a human soul. We are co-creators with Almighty power and we must be co-workers with all the powers of good to make of that child the well-rounded man or woman. He is part of us, but he is far more; he is part of the world, part of all that is to be in ages after us.

More parents fail through a trivial conception of their task than through too high a one. If we really believe that the training of children was the most important work of the world we would undertake to fit ourselves for it; moreover, society would see to it that such training was not left so largely to the inexperienced and the unfit. Whatever we may say with our lips we do not

now practically believe that the care and training of the young is the most tremendous task which can be intrusted to any human being.

Two factors are largely operative in producing this belief. 1st, The stubborn self-satisfaction with which average men and women believe that they can manage their own children and have them turn out about as well as other people's children. 2nd, A deep-seated and rapidly growing feeling that wifehood and motherhood offer no scope for the powers of a woman of real talent or great energy. *She* must have special training for a career while the woman of mediocre ability can without training undertake to marry, run a house, bear, train, feed and largely educate a family of future citizens on whom the welfare of the world depends.

The modern young woman who speaks with curling lip of being relegated to the kitchen and nursery has no true conception of the dignity of either, of the need for all her powers of mind, heart and body, all her knowledge and culture if she is to wisely order a home and rear a family of children.

Like all professions, it requires breadth of vision, that she may view her own task in its relation to human life and human progress, and then the most careful and painstaking knowledge, for child-culture is the biggest business of life and should be learned as any other business. A

woman, no matter what her previous education may be, must go to school again to physician and psychologist and educator to learn the laws which control the wonderful organism to which she has given life. If we have no right to undertake the building of strong and efficient bodies which shall stand the tests of modern living, without study of the laws of growth, of food values, of hygiene and sanitation, how much less have we the right to undertake character-building without studying the laws of a child's development, his recapitulation of the life of the race, his need for passing through these strange and soon outgrown stages, of the characteristics of adolescence and their relation to his whole future growth.

Love and patience and insight, combined with common-sense, have enabled the men and women of the past to do much without special knowledge, but we can every one of us recall numerous instances of tragic failure of the old method or lack of method. Let the parents of the future keep their love, their insight, their sympathy; they will need them all, but let them add to these—knowledge—a study of modern educational problems, a vision of the goal for which they are striving—the kind of human-product they want to develop. Our old ideas have been all negative. We have kept looking at the faults of a child and thinking how we must uproot them, tear them out of his system. If the average parent were asked what kind of a child he was trying to develop he would probably give you a negative ideal, a person who did not possess this, that or the other fault.

The faults of childhood are of two kinds: first, those which are in their nature temporary and belong to the period through which the child is passing, for instance, those faults of manners for which children are so often blamed or punished—noisiness, rudeness, untidiness, thoughtlessness—are inevitable if the child is to have actual contact with life, is to grow from an unfinished to a finished product. The child who is always quiet, gentle, polite and thoughtful is finished too soon; his development will cease before manhood or womanhood.

The second kind of faults are much more serious but they too are inevitable to the growing, incomplete creature struggling with a complex civilization. His character is still in the making and his ideas of truth, of honor, of property rights are still chaotic. In all education we think too much of uprooting faults and too little of developing virtues. We must keep a child from lying or punish him for lying, we say, but we do not work enough to develop in him a love of truth, a realization of what truth and honor mean in human life and social relations.

As I rode past miles of young oak forest on my way here, I noticed last year's leaves still hanging to the brown branches. Many of our educational methods, I thought, are as if some well-meaning person should spend days in plucking off these dead leaves instead of waiting until the life forces of a new spring had quickened the sap, when the dead leaves would fall unnoticed and in the divine economy of Nature even nourish the new growth pulsing

through the tree. So will faults drop away from the human plant with the deepening of the life forces, with the development of character, with the growth of positive virtues.

Child-study is as well the most important, the most interesting of studies. History, biography, fiction, become contributing, adjunct-reading. We read them to find what developed the hero, the genius, the tyrant, the artist, the general.

The facts of heredity and early training take on a new significance, as we wonder if the children about the evening lamp may be turned into some of the paths that lead to greatness by our influence. And child-study has such wonderful human documents, such living material! Let us never fear that it is a narrow or belittling study. Culture through the vocation is a modern phrase, and

we need never fear that true culture will not come to the men and women who give their time and thought and effort to the study of the myriad problems of childhood.

With all our love and all our study we may fail. In any task we can but do our best. Many forces mold human life and character. But we must never cease to love, never cease to travail, never cease to hope and believe until we see the point of our labors. "Train up your children," says Lyman Abbott, "not merely govern them, but train them in the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it, and if for a little time they may seem to do so, the mother-love, the father fidelity, the magnetism of never-forgotten home, will bring them back to life and to God again."

LELAND STANFORD UNIVERSITY in California has determined to abolish the use of alcoholic liquors in all the fraternity houses connected with the University. This action was announced by President David Starr Jordan in an address given two years ago, in which he said: "On a certain night two hundred students, half of them from the University of California and half of them Stanford men, were drunk all night long on the campus. That same night all the fraternity houses but three were open saloons the whole night. As a result of this, twenty students were treated for alcoholism and a few for delirium tremens. We felt a change must come unless we were prepared to have every fraternity house an open

saloon. A rule prohibiting drinking or having liquor in the fraternity houses was promptly made and was endorsed by the action of the board of trustees. The greatest evil of the saloon is that it is the open door to the red light district. We will not have our students getting drunk and then staggering to the houses of ill-fame to contract diseases. We are simply doing at Stanford, in following out these drastic measures, what every university and college in the country, which does its duty, has to come to. Where universities are said to have no trouble of this kind, it is simply because they do not pay any attention to it, and not because it does not exist. No power on earth can make me go back to the former license and want of control."

## Kindergartens and "Near" Kindergartens

WHEN Dr. Thomas M. Balliet of New York University was asked to say a word about Kindergarten education he made this statement:

"All the more recent studies in child psychology emphasize the great plasticity of the early years of childhood. The habits which the child then forms, and the attitude, both intellectual and emotional, which is then given him, are more lasting and more determining for his adult life than was even suspected some years ago. This gives added importance to Kindergarten training of a genuine sort."

These last words call up a familiar phrase, a phrase so often used that we are apt to hold it in contempt: "There are Kindergartens and Kindergartens." We are willing, however, to repeat the well-worn expression because of its implications. It conveys in epigram form the idea of contrast between spurious and genuine, between so-called and actual, between a name and what the name stands for.

One of the accepted facts of life is that a thing which is essentially good is bound to be imitated in its outer details, while its real essence is often entirely disregarded. Our language is full of metaphors based upon these facts. We say of a person's speech as we say of a false coin that it does not ring true; and of a doubtful transaction as of a package, that it does not bear the right stamp.

Dr. Balliet speaks advisedly when he says Kindergarten training of a genuine sort. For the Kindergarten

has not escaped the fate of all other institutions of excellence; indeed it seems to offer especial facilities to the counterfeiting spirit of mankind.

There are several reasons why this is so. First, in any community it is quite easy to assemble a number of little boys and girls and put them in the charge of a grown person who is fond of children. Second, any educational supply house can furnish the attractive little chairs and low tables, and the balls, blocks, clay, papers, scissors, paste, paints and so on which are mediums for the mental and manual activities of the children. Third, from the same supply house issues forth a plenteous flowing stream of instruction-books, plan-books, song-books, story-books, and books of games and plays, and the grown person can dip up what she needs for daily use. Fourth, this combination of children and grown persons and furniture and supplies and music and games may make a favorable impression upon the community, and the community may record its approbation of the Kindergarten, never suspecting that what exists in its midst is not one of the genuine sort, but only a near Kindergarten.

It will be asked how one may distinguish the genuine sort from the near sort since both sorts make use of the same furniture and play materials and games and music. One point of distinction is that in the real Kindergarten these details of equipment are treated as adjuncts, or as instruments through which the living spirit of the thing liberates itself,

while in the near Kindergarten the equipment is leaned upon and regarded as the main-stay of the institution. Again, in the real Kindergarten there is an air, a certain feel which exhales from a right relationship between the teachers and children, quite independent of any external circumstance of room and apparatus. Our American proverb says "Boston is not a place but an attitude of mind." The same thing is true of a genuine Kindergarten. The genuineness of it is produced by the right attitude of the teacher towards every kind of relationship, human and divine. In the imitation Kindergarten there is an artificiality or a strained air, produced by the teacher's effort to make goody-goody talk serve as a substitute for right inner attitudes. In the genuine Kindergarten the teacher is con-

tinually growing in the sense of the little child and in power to discriminate between the essential and non-essential things in the child-life. In the near Kindergarten there is no shading; all things are treated as if of equal value; devices are multiplied and crowded into the foreground while principles are not even in the background.

To be genuine means "to be true to its own claims." The Kindergarten makes tremendously big claims because it is a force, a dynamic philosophy, and is therefore bigger than any of its instrumentalities.

When this truth comes to be generally recognized then shall arrive the happy day when "near" kindergartens shall be no more and only those of the genuine sort will remain.

M. M. W.

THERE would be no need for a Court of Domestic Relations, says Judge Charles N. Goodnow, if those who come into the court were correctly taught as children.

"Neither boy nor girl has been taught the duties of husband or wife," he said. "Domestic science is a lost art. The vanity of dress and the glamour of society have occupied the attention of children since they were in their early teens. They have not had the right home training.

"Home conditions at present are

a serious failure in preparing men and women for the making of the home. The absolute ignorance of the masses in regard to the responsibilities, duties, rights, and privileges of married life is appalling and the home should be subjected to the gravest criticism. I know of no place on earth where happiness may be more enjoyed or where hell may be more endured than in the home. Whether your sons and daughters will find happiness in the homes they make when they marry depends upon the training you give them now.

# On the Management of Children Predisposed to Nervousness

By LLEWELLYS BARKER  
Johns Hopkins Hospital

WHETHER a person becomes nervous or not depends upon two great factors: (1) the constitution which he inherits from his parents and through them from his ancestors generally; (2) the influences to which his body, especially his nervous system, is exposed during life and particularly during childhood. There will always be differences of opinion among serious students of the subject as to the relative importance of these two factors; some assume that heredity or nature is the all important factor; others maintain that this is relatively insignificant and that environment or nurture accounts for everything; both views are one sided. Both nature and nurture are of fundamental importance and only by considering the two aspects of the subject fairly can sound ideas ever be arrived at.

Heredity and environment overlap in one period of life; during early childhood the individual is usually under the educational influence of his parents and exposed to their example. Doubtless much that is sometimes attributed to direct inheritance is really due to the influence after birth, of imitation of the parents. Where the heredity is notoriously bad it might be well, as Oppenheim<sup>1</sup> suggests, to protect children, who have the ill fortune to be born under such conditions, from the dangers of psychic infection in the parental environment; such children taken away from home and placed under more favorable condi-

tions would have a better chance of counteracting the faults of inheritance.

In families in which nervous states prevail it is a matter of great interest to know in how far the nervous tendency can be overcome by educational means and especially to learn what to avoid because of its likelihood to injure the nervous system. Even in families in which no nervous taints exist in the parents or near relatives the children sometimes become nervous through faulty education and there is a growing desire on the part of well informed people now-a-days to make sure that the means of education they provide for their children shall be such that the nervous system will be protected and strengthened rather than exposed to over-strain and injury.

One fact which has become ever clearer as medical knowledge has advanced concerns the nutrition of the child. Faulty feeding in infancy and early childhood may lead to such impoverishment of the tissues and such stunting of growth that the ill effects can never be recovered from in later life. A considerable proportion of the intellectual and moral inferiorities among our people is fairly attributable to imperfect nutrition at this early age. Fortunately the public is now being so thoroughly educated to the importance of breast feeding for infants and of liberal and suitable diet during the early years of life, by family physicians and also through the ex-

cellent little manuals of Holt,<sup>2</sup> Starr,<sup>3</sup> Griffith<sup>4</sup> and others on the care and feeding of children that it is not necessary to dwell at length upon the subject. Plenty of good, simple food, including milk, meat, vegetables and fruit with avoidance of condiments, coffee, tea and alcohol is approved by all authorities.

Many parents make the mistake of allowing the caprice of the child to influence its diet. We now know the foods that are suitable for children and, knowing these, the children should be provided with them in suitable amounts and should be required to eat of them, largely independent of choice. The child that learns to eat and digest all wholesome foods and who is not permitted to cultivate little food antipathies makes a good start and avoids one of the worst pit-falls of life with which medical men are very familiar, namely a meticulous anxiety concerning the effects of various foods, all too likely to develop into a hypochondriacal state.

There is a greater recognition now than formerly; also, of the fact that children should not be too tenderly brought up—that a certain amount of judicious hardening of the body is desirable. While fad-dists and extremists in this direction fall into grievous errors, making their children go barefoot and bare-legged in the snow and compelling the feeble, non-reacting child to take plunges in ice cold water, a still greater mistake is made by those who over-protect their children and who fail to accustom their bodies early to cool baths and to exercise in all sorts of weather.

The child who is brought up in

such a way that he is very sensitive to slight changes in temperature is bound to suffer from it sooner or later and everyone is familiar with those who grumble at the weather. If children be suitably dressed and are early accustomed to taking a cool bath in the morning and to walks out-of-doors every day, rain or shine, and whether it be cold or warm, the skin and nervous system quickly acquire a tolerance for variations in temperature most desirable for health and for the feeling of well-being.

An out-of-door life for children leads them unconsciously to exercise their muscles more than is possible for the child who stays in-doors. Not only physicians but also laymen from the old Greek times to the present have been impressed with the importance of bodily exercise and harmonious muscular development for the welfare of the mind and of the nervous system. If we wish our children to be strong, energetic and courageous, if we desire to insure them against the nervous ills which follow in the wake of debility, inertia and timidity we must see to it that all the muscles of their bodies are systematically and regularly exercised. For this purpose the plays of children are very important, and the only child, deprived of the companionship of brothers and sisters, unless pains are taken to supply other playmates for him, is much to be pitied. Besides play, walking, running, rowing, riding, swimming, paddling and sailing are all desirable forms of bodily exercise. In cities, and especially during the school year, systematic gymnastic exercises, calisthenics, have to be resorted to and where no suitable

gymnastic exercises can be obtained, parents will do well to teach older children some forms of exercises to be taken in the early morning. One of the best of the various systems worked out is that of a Dane, one J. P. Müller,<sup>5</sup> who in his little book, *My System*, outlines a series of exercises which anyone may carry out in his own room without apparatus. These exercises are physiologically well devised and I can recommend them heartily, not only for older children but also for both men and women who have to compress the exercises of the day into a very short period. The exercises recommended in this country by Luther Gulick,<sup>6</sup> by Tait McKenzie,<sup>7</sup> and others may also be mentioned. I would call your attention also to the works of Lagrange.<sup>8</sup>

An anxious mother will often ask to have her nervous child excused from regular exercises at school. This is usually a mistake, for nervous children even more than normal children, require systematic, muscular exercises. It should, of course, be properly regulated and where there is any doubt as to the reliability of the supervision of such work at a school gymnasium, definite instructions should be obtained from the family physician as to the character and amount of exercises to be undertaken.

While emphasis is thus laid upon suitable bodily exercise for children predisposed to nervousness a warning should be sounded against excesses in sports like tennis, foot-ball, basket-ball and other games in which there is opportunity for competition or rivalry. Over-ambition in these directions is often most harmful both to the body and to the mind of the

child and should be especially avoided where there is any neuro-pathic taint.

In addition to the hardening of the body, the education of the child should include measures which increase the resistance of the child against pain and discomforts of various sorts. Every child, therefore, should undergo a gradual process of "psychic hardening" and be taught to bear with equanimity the pain and discomfort to which everyone sooner or later cannot help but be exposed. What I have said about clothing, cold baths, walking in all weather and at all temperatures, play and exercise in the open air, has a bearing on this point, for a child who has formed good habits in these various directions will have learned many lessons in the steeling of his mind to bear pain and to ignore small discomforts.

Physicians who work among nervous cases realize how often the child who has been too much protected from pain becomes the victim of nervous break-down later in life. I have seen many a woman who could bear great sorrow or suffer without flinching the pain of childbirth who still had no tolerance for the little ills of life. In such cases it is the idea rather than the sensation from which the patient suffers and such abnormal ideas most frequently arise in those who have not learned in childhood to bear pain well or to adjust themselves without complaint to the disagreeable sensations and experiences which are essential to a normal bringing up.

The boy who learns to tumble in a gymnasium, to stand the pain of boxing and fencing and wrestling and to keep his temper while engag-

ing in these exercises will have subjected himself to a training which cannot help but stand him in good stead later on in life. One reason why women are more prone in later life to nervousness than men may lie in the lessened opportunity which girls have for bodily and psychic hardening in the games which they play and the life which they lead as children. Particular care should be taken with young girls who show any tendency to nervousness to see to it that not too much concession is made to their likes and dislikes. Nothing can be more harmful to them than the gratification of caprice. Especially when a child shows a tendency to be nauseated by certain smells and tastes and to complain of noises or of sensitiveness to bright light, the family physician should be consulted and, provided no actual disease of the sense organs or brain is responsible, the process of psychic hardening should at once be begun.

Neglected, it is surprising to what vagaries such hypersensitiveness may lead. A lady recently consulted me on account of a most distressing state, asking that "in the name of mercy and pity," she should be given some help and told how to overcome an obsession which distressed her. The sound of her husband chewing at table completely upset her and when he smoked the noise made by the puffing of the smoke was torture to her, the creaking of her mother's shoes as she walked about the house made her most uncomfortable during a period of several months. Obviously the abnormal idea in such a case caused the suffering, not the sensory impulse itself.

Another patient, a gentleman, who has had repeated nervous breakdowns told me that they always begin in the same way. After a night of insomnia he will suddenly become unable to bear a strong light and in lamp light he complains that he has a sensation of pressure in the head and an inability to relax his limbs. He feels at such times as though he will lose his mind and that he must have some relief or he will have to end his life. In one of these attacks in early life he stayed two years in a dark room and only at the end of that time would consent to remain in the light. Obviously here, too, it was not the sensation of light but the idea that the light would injure him which was the kernel of his condition.

Examples like the two just mentioned could easily be multiplied but they will be sufficient to indicate the direction in which the psychopathic nervous system may easily tend. While in severe cases like these just referred to the patients undoubtedly started out in life with abnormal nervous systems, it is quite conceivable that a judicious hardening in early life might have prevented the later shipwreck. I cannot too strongly recommend, therefore, the acquisition of tolerance of disagreeable feeling-tones as early as practicable in life.

If children can be brought to behave normally in the presence of the disagreeable feeling-tones just discussed, the task of educating them to control themselves in circumstances which tend to arouse the stronger feelings, emotions and passions will be made much easier.

*(To be continued)*

## Good Roads, the Basic Element in the Betterment of the Country Child

By MARY DeGARMO

"The child is the one great care of society. It is not at the child's past, but its future, that men look."—JACOB RUIS.

VOLUMES have already been written on the value of woman's influence in civic work. Road building is the greatest conservation interest that confronts the American citizen to-day, because it will solve the child problem of the rural communities, as no other conservation question possibly can do. It behooves all women to co-operate with man, and to serve the child under the banner of "Great National, State and Local Highways built by Skilled Engineers."

The Government reports show us that we have more than 700,000 women farmers, who successfully "till the soil, raise poultry and all kinds of live stock, pay their taxes and send their children to school, when roads are not impassable." If one-half the farmers' wives not listed with the U. S. Government, but who are actually engaged in horticulture, poultry raising, and other occupations on the farm, were added to this number, it would not over-estimate the numerical influence of women as a commercial factor in the Rural World. It would be an interesting item of statistics, if the *exact amount* of income to the farmer through the "butter and eggs" sold by the farmer's wife, could be given to the commercial world. In many localities in country districts, these commodities purchase all the family supplies, including tobacco, and furnish

the money to pay the taxes at the close of the year.

These facts, as well as innumerable others, prove conclusively that woman is practical, and an ever-ready helpmeet when duty and love demand her services. At no time in the world's history has woman's influence been a greater necessity than at the present time. Mothers and fathers stand appalled at the lack of progress in the rural communities. While cities have been making phenomenal strides in commerce, education, inventions, social and religious development, many of the rural communities have remained stationary, and apparently indifferent to the advancement of Science, Art and Literature; but more particularly have the rural people been guilty of almost criminal inactivity in regard to the "Social" Development of the Educational and Commercial Centres of the community. There is some excuse for this: The wife and mother, father, son and daughter, are engaged in such arduous toil, such constant drudgery on the farm, that their inactivity is largely caused by bodily fatigue; nevertheless, the result is equally deplorable, for no sooner does the youth of the rural community learn of the superior advantages of city life, not in an educational way alone, but particularly its greater opportunities for amusement and social enjoyment, than he

rebels at the "hard life" on the farm, and hies him to the city, to meet the other farm boys and girls, who, for the same reason, have left the dear old mother and father to struggle on alone with the unending tasks of the farm.

With this preface, I shall proceed to indicate some ways in which women can aid in checking the appalling exodus of the brightest girls and boys of the country to the city, where, often, owing to inexperience or ignorance, they are engulfed in the maelstrom of vice which flows side by side with the advancement and culture of the city.

Our first and ultimate object should be to educate the rural people to value highly and endorse heartily the establishment of rural social centres at short distances from each other throughout the State, and to influence legislation and create activity in Road Building for the child. There, a rural public library, gymnasium, theatre, skating rink, moving picture show, Debating Societies, Singing Schools, etc., should be established, in connection with a model rural school, at which Agriculture, Manual Training and Domestic Science, Good Roads and Forestry, should be taught, in addition to the "regular" school curriculum. The athletic sports, basket-ball, foot-ball, healthy theatrical attractions, etc., made possible by "Good Roads," will counteract the attractions of the city, and prove a soul-saving measure for the sturdy and despairing country people.

All agree upon the value of rural social centres, but not all have studied the means to the end. There are many ways by which interest in the

Amusement Centre can be awakened.

First: The establishment of Good Roads Day at all State and County Fairs and Land Congresses. On such a day the program should include speakers of expert knowledge, who will discuss the influence of permanent roads on Education, Religion, Commerce and Social Centre Development.

Second: A model rest room for country women and children in every small town or village, where the country women can be organized into Parent-Teacher Associations, with Good Roads for Child-Welfare Committee, with special reference to building Good Roads to a School and Social Centre for children.

Third: The establishment at the State Fair of a model "Economical Country Home," with all modern conveniences, yet one which will be within the reach of the small farmer, or industrious tenant. This Model Home to be a permanent feature of the State Fair, and to be furnished each year by the handiwork of the children of the State; such as has been successfully accomplished at the State Fair of Louisiana for the past two years.

Adjacent to the Model Country Home on the State Fair grounds should be built a model country school house, equipped with model school furnishings and model heating and ventilating apparatus, as well as proper sanitary appliances. This model country home and model country school house should be connected by a model country road, constructed from the best native road materials. On this model road the Road Cadets give demonstra-

tion drills during the State Fair, in the use and construction of simple road machines. The Road Cadets shall also demonstrate the method of observing "Good Roads Arbor Day."

This exhibit of the Model Home, Model School and Model Road is of greater importance to the rural visitors, at the State Fair, than many of the other exhibits, which the farmer of moderate circumstances sees at a glance are beyond his financial ability to appropriate. The proper housing of children is as important as the perfect housing of chickens to the Fair visitors.

Fourth: A Good Roads Arbor Day. By that is meant that children plant trees in the autumn, as well as in the spring, not only at the school house, but along the road; not only do they plant trees along the road, but they plant State trees, nut-bearing trees, etc., so that the county will be induced to make permanent good roads between the school houses and homes, in order that the trees will not be torn out by working the roads each year. "Good Roads Arbor Day" should be a day of celebration by the entire community, at

which leading educators, highway engineers and other State officials should address the people on the Benefits to the Children of Good Roads built by the Bond Issue System, the Convict Labor System, etc., for permanent road building under supervision of skilled Highway Engineers.

Fifth: In every community there should be, preliminary to this other work, the organization of Mothers' Clubs, to study child development in the home, in the school, in the church, and in the social and amusement life of the community, as affected by or in relation to Good Roads, and to wage a campaign to suppress the publication in metropolitan supplements of uncomplimentary references and epithets as applied to farmers.

Sixth: An Educated Parenthood: Training to consider child-welfare as the one important subject for universal study must precede all progress. A public opinion must be awakened and a "Public Spirit" engendered before the great question of rural child-welfare will be considered earnestly and intelligently. This is the great duty of all citizens.

MANY men think it undignified to unbend to their children, thus shutting their hearts to the greatest happiness on earth. Discipline alone never turns children into worthy, broad-gauged men and women.

Those who really try to understand their children and make them happy are repaid tenfold. It is not necessary for the children to make returns. The actual giving brings its reward of happiness. To see the

children happy is enough for the average parent.

The father or mother who understands his or her own children understands life and is better fortified to meet the struggle. There is a well of truth and simplicity in children that sends a man back to his work fresher in mind. Children help the grown-ups to gain a proper perspective of life. They repay every effort made to understand them.

## The Father's Example

JUDGE BEN LINDSEY, founder of the Denver Juvenile Court, believes that the problem of the youthful delinquent cannot be solved by juvenile courts alone. The home must help.

"It is back to the home, the father, the mother, the school and the Sunday-school we must go for the germ of juvenile delinquency," said Judge Lindsey in a lecture delivered in Chicago.

This is vitally true. It is to home influences and to the example of fathers and mothers, as a rule, that not only the bad in children is to be traced but the good as well.

Take the boy, for instance. To nine out of every ten boys the father is the model. He is the fountain-head of wisdom. He is the law and the Ten Commandments. Not only are his acts justifiable but his opinions are true.

The boy sees the world through his father's eyes. The viewpoint of the boy is established by the father's outlook. If the boy's attitude toward life is not a faithful reproduction of the father's attitude, it is usually not the boy's fault.

If the father is a criminal, the son probably grows up with a contempt for law. If the father hates the police, the son hates them too. If the father assails religion, the boy becomes an atheist. If the father boasts how he cheated this man or tricked that, the boy is fired with an

ambition to emulate his cleverness. What the man is among his business associates, the boy probably will be among his playmates.

It is the same on every social level, among law-abiding as well as among the criminal classes. The father's views of law and license, poetry and politics, are usually the boy's.

Of all life's plastic influences none perhaps has so powerful an effect in molding the boy's character as the father's example. In comparison the influence of the school and the Sunday school are as nothing.

If, as Judge Lindsey says, it is to the fathers and mothers we must go if we would prevent juvenile crime, it is to the mothers and fathers we must go also if we would insure good citizenship for the future.

The future of the nation lies in its children and clay is not more amenable to the hands of the potter than the characters of children to the formative influence of parental example.

If the son of a bad father is bad, it is the father who is responsible. If the son of a bad father turns out a good man, it is usually in spite of the father. If a father's life sometimes inspires the boy to try for the heights, it often sets the youth's feet upon the path to the penitentiary.

That is the father's responsibility. No juvenile court can relieve him of it.

## The Crimes of the Mother

A FEW days ago I witnessed an outrage against children, the memory of which has tugged and cried at my heart until I am led to write to you, women of the Child-Welfare Movement, asking if there is not some way you and your literature can reach the mothers of my neighborhood and bring home to them some realization of the crimes they daily unwittingly commit against the futures of their little children. Most of these women have never thought of a reason why the health, characters, and future happiness of their children should concern them beyond giving them food,—any and all varieties at any and all times,—keeping them scrubbed on Saturday nights, and giving them as a reason for obedience, honesty, and all forms of piety, that hell yawns for such as wander from these highly recommended roads. And I have never seen youthful viciousness more prevalent.

The other day I saw the ignorance and carelessness of my neighbors in its effect upon the wee babies. Twelve or fourteen miles up in the country there was a political barbecue held in a grove of scant mesquite trees. Imagine my horror in making the last mile of the drive, to pass literally scores of women wading the ankle-deep dust, under the scorching noonday sun, and pushing go-carts which held babies most of them under six months or a year old. If they were old enough to walk they toiled behind through the dust, sucking a grimy stick of candy and wailing at frequent intervals for "Ma" to wait. The babies in the go-carts

showed a variety of emotions—some lay in a deep apathy, hot and resigned, others yelled lustily and fought for liberty and better surroundings, while many a poor mite kept up a plaintive cry that seemed to say "Have mercy, have mercy." And through it all the mothers, tired, perspiring and talking in strained overwrought voices pushed on to the grove where a band played, cold drinks, and wagonloads of bananas were on sale to fret the nickels one by one from Ma's scant purse, and where soon, under the broiling sun, a dinner of hot meat, pickles, bread and coffee would be served to men, women, and children alike.

I can find no words to picture to you the wailing misery of these babies in arms or the stunned excitement of the over- and illy-fed older children. Many of the latter only woke from their apathy to fight wildly and scream a negative to all propositions. I saw one child rise giddily from his seat at the foot of a tree, walk around the neat little pile of banana skins he had made during the period of consuming the half dozen over-ripe ones his nickel had provided him with, and stand perfectly green with awful nausea and pull at his mother's sleeve, as she sat on a bench conversing with a neighbor while she pushed the heat-stupefied baby back and forth in its cart over the uneven ground. And when she finally turned and saw him drooping there, she cried out wildly for water and they filled the rest of his little stomach with ice-water which the cold drink dis-

penser sent over in all kindness. I saw them leaving for home that evening in a big open wagon, the little fellow purple from sunburn, fever, and indigestion, the baby a stiff, screaming gasping atom of revolt across its mother's knees, and the woman, humped over on the rough seat, tired to the point where an utterly blank mind and obscured personality looked dully out of her burning eyes. What do you suppose happened in that home the next few days? Do you fancy the wornout woman gave intelligent care to the overwrought babies with the disorganized digestion and shaken nerves? She probably said fretfully that "the children were so cross" and applied active discipline as a belief to her nerves and a remedy for their unnatural condition.

I saw a frail little blonde girl, perhaps ten years old, dressed to the point that left no room to doubt her being the petted darling of her home, make so many visits to the ice cream cone man that I could not but wonder at her enormous capacity, when during the dinner hour I saw her utterly demolish a plate of beef sufficient to feed a family, with a like quantity of sour pickles and a cup of strong coffee—and then with a bevy of opulent young friends begin again her visits to the cold drink and ice cream market. By the middle of the afternoon while the political speaker was holding spell-bound a perspiring gasping crowd there was a call for that little girl's mother and an auto whisked them away to town and the ministrations of a doctor.

A baby not a day more than six

months old sat propped up in his cart, sucking diligently at a long strip of beef which he grasped midway its length with his fat hands. The hands and the beef that dangled below were covered with flies, and a few, more adventurous, had crawled up almost to the verge of the red mouth and fed busily on the greasy cheeks. Once in a while the mother reached back a languid hand and scared a few timid ones an inch or so away, but the affair concerned her not at all compared with the matter of enjoying to the full the generous serving on her plate and the tale of how many "friers" were ready for the market in the yard of the woman who stood next to her.

These incidents are only an example; there were five hundred children there under the age of ten years, and I never saw one little face that looked truly happy, though many a one glowed with a wild excitement, the reflex of which meant days and perhaps weeks of bad temper, at least, and Heaven alone knows what illness and permanent damage to nervous systems and digestive organs.

These mothers were hunting pleasure and relaxation from the grind of their overworked existence. They were giving the children what seemed to them a day of happiness. There was no smallest understanding of the awful consequences, nor is there the slightest conception, even in the homes possibly bereaved since, that the fatal attack of cholera infantum, dysentery or whatever form the infection took, was a direct result of that day of very doubtful pleasure. Even should such a

thought be presented, it would perhaps be accepted with a weak assent and the remark "I wish I hadn't a'went."

How to bring home to these mothers a sense of responsibility, how to educate them to the rare privilege of developing the mind, body, and character of their offspring, what diversion to offer them that will take the place of these picnic days with these horrible results—these are questions I submit, problems you have no doubt worked out in your own communities the solution of which you may be prepared

to offer to me and my neighbors. Convincing literature on the evils of indiscriminate feeding, irregular habits, and poor discipline—perhaps some leaflet that carries some inspiration to read and study on the subject of child culture—anything that we may hope will make an impression on these unawakened minds and give an opening into which the much needed counsel may be gradually insinuated, until there dawns on the intelligence some conception of what we may term "the crimes of the mother."

FLORENCE FREY STOLTZFUS.

### The Prodigal Girl

We all have a heart for the prodigal boy  
Who was caught in sin's mad whirl,  
And we welcome him back with his songs  
of joy—  
But what of the prodigal girl?

For the prodigal boy there's an open door,  
And a father's bounteous fare,  
And, though he is wretched, and sick, and  
poor,  
He is sure of a welcome there.

But what of the girl who has gone astray,  
Who has lost in the battle with sin?  
Say, do we forgive in the same sweet way  
We've always forgiven him?

Does the door stand ajar, as if to say,  
"Come, enter, you need not fear;  
I've been open thus since you went away,  
Now close to the second year?"

Or do we with hand of hellish pride  
Close and bolt the door,  
And swear, "While heaven and earth abide,  
She will enter here no more?"

O Christ! it seems we have never learned  
The lesson taught in the sand,  
For even yet the woman is spurned,  
And stoned in a Christian land;

Down in the slough we hurl her back,  
Then turn around with a smile,  
And welcome the boy from the sinful track,  
Though he may have been more vile.

We all have a heart for the prodigal boy,  
Who was caught in sin's mad whirl,  
And we welcome him back with songs of  
joy—  
But what of the prodigal girl?

*Anonymous.*

TEACH your boy or girl that only by love we can gain love, and that all the dross or selfishness must be burned away by the fires of endurance, for no character is truly great until it has passed through the furnace of self-denial.

SOPHIE B. WRIGHT

WHOSOEVER contents himself with doing the little duties of the day, great things will, by-and-by, present themselves to him for their fulfillment also.

HOWARD PYLE.

## Boys Can Save Nation Millions and Reduce High Cost of Living

THE plan, not altogether novel in its central features, yet truly astounding in the imposing magnitude contemplated, proposes that every family in the United States shall utilize the spare ground attached to its dwelling for the raising of the vegetables used on the home table. It is obviously impossible to shut one's eyes to the fact that there are many thousands, perhaps millions of families, who, living in city localities so densely populated and so completely bricked, have no spare ground available for even a foot of parsley.

In figures there are 5,000,000 American families who can save, on an average, \$120 each per year.

Given half the cost of only a moderately big battleship to spend in demonstrating annually to the American farmer the best methods of handling his crops, at least \$1,000,000,000 per year can be added to the nation's wealth in agricultural products.

It is the children who can work the miracle. They have done it in noteworthy fragments already. The school gardens which have had so extensive a popularity during the last few years, have shown that girls as well as boys take delight in bringing into the world the useful plant lives which it shall be theirs to cherish to useful maturity. Dr. Knapp looks to the organization of the home garden system through that famous American institution, the public schools.

"The genesis of the high price of

foods for the masses lies in the fact that such a large body of people have ceased to be producers of food products. For instance, there are now about 2,000,000 men employed by railroads, and counting five to a family this would represent 10,000,000 people.

"In olden times, every toiler produced food on his little place; but these 10,000,000 people are withdrawn from the class that produces, and are now consumers.

"It has been charged that the high price of food is due to combinations, or in some cases to packers, or to wholesalers, or to retailers. I do not think that they are the causes. It is possible their prices may be more than ought to be exacted in some cases; but no remedy can be found by assailing them, because they are necessarily part of our civilization, and are destined to have their percentage, which at least must amount to a living profit. No amount of public censure can materially change the situation.

"The real remedy lies in causing these 25,000,000 of toilers to raise their food supply. Now it is true that many or most of them—and this is particularly true of the minor cities where factories are located—have back yards of considerable extent. I have investigated a number of the larger cities, and find that many have yards of sufficient size to permit the raising of vegetables for home use.

"In addition to having this vacant

ground they have idle labor, and it would be healthful, educational and economical to have their children employed in idle hours. They would learn something. The school garden has been tested; but in a large portion of the country, just as the plants come up, school is closed, and that ends the gardening.

"But the home garden worked through the school can be made a success. It should be organized in the school and the teachers should become interested, and the children should be taught some economic methods—possibly the same as those of the Italian gardener, where they

will have all kinds of vegetables growing.

"Take a back yard thirty or forty feet, or 1200 square feet. On this space can be produced all of the vegetables for the family for an entire season—tomatoes, peas, onions, beets, beans, lettuce, radishes and possibly some potatoes which usually require more space. Many of these vegetables will be in quantities sufficient for canning, consequently causing a reduction of the table expenses during the winter. In addition, against the walls, currants, grapes and other small fruit can be planted and will add to the food supply as well as to the beauty of the yard.

## Mothers' Influence

"We have all come to recognize the need in defences in our lives. We are beset by temptations and many evils which threaten to destroy us, and it is the part of wisdom to see that we are prepared to meet them.

"Among these defences allow me to suggest a great purpose in life; some controlling aim about which all life's energies shall gather; something that keeps us from drifting; that helps us in our decision concerning our conduct and helps to refuse the allurements which are often offered. That is, good habits. Conscious of the power of habits and knowing its place in our lives we cannot be too careful in forming good ones.

"Right principles are a defence and hold us true in the face of temptation.

"But if defences are essential in our lives, the making of them is a matter of importance. Some we make for ourselves. The great majority are made for us by others. Since most of these are made by the time we reach twenty-one years of age and we are largely, then, what we will be in the future the period of youth becomes the time of preparation.

"There are three agencies which especially seek to accomplish this end, namely, the church, the state and the home. The church does not reach all classes, the state fails in the great spiritual verities; and, therefore, the burden of responsibility rests upon the home. In its final analysis the burden rests upon the one who makes the home, namely, the mother. Without any disparagement to father, it is nevertheless true that the mother determines largely the character of our lives. The majority of us, as we recall our home life and mother's influence, join in that beautiful tribute of Lincoln to his mother, when he said 'all that I am or all that I hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.'

"Mothers, this is a great responsibility. Seek not to perform it without the assistance of Divine power. Spurn it not for the giddy life of pleasure. Neglect it not for any larger sphere. You occupy the place of supreme power and you should be true to the sacred trust imposed upon you."

REV. C. W. LEITZELL.

## What the Individual Can Do for Erring and Unfortunate Children

WHAT more pitiful figure than the delinquent child! Tender in years, inexperienced in life, usually unloved and unloving, sullen and revengeful, beyond seeking friends because of shaken faith in humanity and dragging after it a chain with the ever-growing ball of adverse public opinion. Poor child! There are few of us to whom the opportunity of influencing one or more of these children does not come. Who cannot if he tries come in close touch with them, drawing them with the slender thread of love into the way of nobility and honor.

We must keep constantly in mind that all the sin a child has committed is usually far outweighed by the wrong society has done him and the attitude of those about him.

The consensus of opinion seems to be that erring children should be punished. Why punish them? You cannot by that means undo the wrong they have done, or arouse the child's love for you, or keep it from sinning again, educate its conscience, or develop a love of right-doing and train its will, and most of these things you must do if you would make of it an adult loving right, choosing right, and living rightly. Most of us can trace our inspirations to personal influence, and the individual can mold a child most easily by being an inspiration to him.

One does not need large sums of money, or great experience and knowledge to do for these children.

A friendly smile behind which is a truly loving heart is a gold mine to any child, and particularly the one called "erring." It is so easy to reach their hungry hearts, and many of us have much to share with them; we can give of ourselves, our culture, education, and experience in life which would help some of them more than material things, and of the latter many of us have to spare. What a new world would be opened to some children by giving them the use of a few feet of ground in our gardens, and added to it our help in planning, our companionship—the long talks about how plants grow, and the culminating joy when a few fragrant flowers can be carried to some sick friend. Some of us have animals to spare, and there are few boys who cannot be taught lessons of responsibility, loyalty and affection by owning a dog. Even a dove or a canary has its mission in a child's life, and the giver calling to see how the pet is, comes in closer touch with the child. Following such a gift it is easy to begin to read together about animals, opening a vast store of the best literature for children. Whatever is done, should be as far as possible, "with" and not "for."

Once the foundation of a friendship is laid, there should be careful inspection of the child's physical condition, since some troubles often overlooked produce irritability bordering on viciousness; ignorance of the laws of cleanliness, and care of

the body, develop lack of self-control with its train of evil.

It is within the power of most people to give the child healthful, wholesome pleasures, and they need them. Fun contributes to health of mind and body, and is the right of every child, and through it the child with the most perverted tastes can be influenced. No matter how steeped in evil a child may be something may be found which will influence him for good. With patience it can be found, and through it a longing for other right occupations be developed. Though the worst side of the child's nature may be uppermost, the good is surely there, even though smothered.

A sharp lookout for the child towards delinquency, and the child in a situation which might result in it, will do more than anything else to save for happy, useful lives valuable boys and girls. When you hear of a child being left without a mother or father there is your opportunity. After the sympathy aroused by the bereavement has subsided and the child arranged for, he is often forgotten. To follow closely this child's life, become its companion and adviser, is to make sure in most cases that he will never join the ranks of evildoers.

The stories of a few children who were delinquent, becoming so, or thought to be so may be of interest: A boy of fourteen was "going to the bad." He already had a liking for the society of the wrong sort of girls, for low theatres and vicious evening street life, when the attention of an elderly woman living in the country was attracted to him. She asked him to come home with

her to work for her, with the sole purpose of winning him back to right ways. She kept him beside her with occupations pleasing to him which became more fascinating than the lure of the city street. There were long walks through the woods to a neighbor enlivened by cheery talks on what they saw, and explanations about the life of the woods. Tramps for flowers, rowing trips after fish, stopping on the beach for a camp-fire lunch, cosy evenings by the open fire when she had him read aloud to her. Constantly his companion, she filled his life with new thoughts though never a word passed her lips that she had planned all this to help him as a reproof for the life from which she had won him, nor did she think he knew. Years after when he was through college and settled in a far away city he wrote to her: "It is just twelve years since you pulled me out of the mire." In those twelve years he had brought her a son's companionship and dutifulness, enriching her life.

Another boy of the criminal class, so said, was a thief and a liar. Daily whipping by those in charge of him had not improved his conduct, and it was time a reform school took charge of him, so the story went. Looking into his fearless blue eyes, a lonely old man loved the naughty child and took him home with him. After some adroit probing a cord was found by which the boy could be led; he idolized "bugs." They could not be too ugly or venomous looking to attract him, so the boy and the old man took long tramps in quest of a specimen; cyanide bottles, boxes with live insects in them, win-

dow ant-hills and bee-hives littered the rooms, and many times a stray in the old man's pocket or bed gave him the creeps, but these insects were the boy's delight, and every pleasure that did not harm him he had. From them he began studying birds, then animals till the scientist in him showed unmistakably, and with the development of this interest in nature came that of a noble, manly character. He forgot the evils of city life, filled as his mind was with new thoughts, and his tender devotion to the elderly companion of these happier days was the joy of the latter's declining years.

Many times a child has gained an evil reputation through some careless act which results in injury to some one or destruction of property by fire, after which malicious tongues take up the tale. It is whispered that the child is an intentional mischief maker, he is shunned, denied the society of other children, suspected of everything which happens. The individual can do much for such a child, allaying suspicion and championing his cause. Such was the case of a boy fortunately befriended by a stranger who came to the village for the summer. Playing at school he injured one of the children, and though he repeatedly said it was an accident, blame was attached to him, ominous whispers darkened his life until he was ostracized by all. Every happening was attributed to him until at last it was agreed that he was fit only for the reform school. At this crisis the stranger appeared, a man who loved boys and was quickly in sympathy with loneliness and misery. This pitiful, accused boy attracted

him and he set vigorously to work to free him from the burden of accusation. It became a rare thing for the boy to pass without the stranger finding an errand in the same direction. He chatted gaily as they went. Whatever went on in the village the boy and the stranger were there together, no opportunity now for any one to wound the boy's feelings or slight him. Calls were made on his mother, who was always ready to bewail the possession of so wayward a son, but to none of this would the stranger listen. Instead he drew from her information in regard to the boy's tendencies which helped him to develop his better nature. In after years when the boy had become an earnest, devoted Christian, filling a large place in social service, some one said "We all thought you were going to the bad, what reformed you?" "It was the stranger," he replied.

Another case was that of a child about whom was built such an atmosphere of suspicion and accusation that she almost became an inmate of a reform school. The woman with whom she lived left her to do the cooking while she was away. On her return the child was accused of theft, lying, street walking, and sent away. It seems she had cooked something the woman had not ordered, which comprised the theft. The child confessed she falsified in order to protect herself from the woman's fury, and that she stayed on the street as much as possible for the same reason. These stories about the little one were multiplied and repeated until the whole neighborhood was eager to be rid of her, and no one would befriend her. Wronged,

unjustly accused, homeless, she came in touch with a woman who loved her, believed in her, trusted her and opened her home to her. In later years, with tender, daughterly hands the girl softened many hard places in her foster mother's life. Nothing was too difficult for her to be willing to do for her mother, whose reward was so great, that the care the child had been dwindled to an infinitesimal atom in comparison. At the crucial period of this child's life no

institution could have helped her, only an individual could be to her what she needed.

Let us seek to make for erring children a place in our lives and homes where they are always sure of a welcome, deep affection and protection, and where the shadow of their past never mars their development, or discourages their efforts to live better lives.

MRS. FRANK R. HILL.

## High School Fraternities Ousted in Milwaukee

EDUCATORS throughout the country will be interested in the Milwaukee court decision which last month sustained the action of Principal Chamberlain and Superintendent Pearse in dismissing from the east division high school six young ladies who joined a Greek letter society contrary to the rules of the school board. Judge Williams declared that the rule was a reasonable one and that it was entirely within the jurisdiction of the school authorities to enforce the same.

It is significant that twenty-five States are now waging war against the high school fraternity. Of these thirteen States have passed legislative enactments hostile to the secret orders, while the school boards of the important cities in the other twelve States have adopted like

measures. The most drastic laws were passed by Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska, where it is made a misdemeanor for any one to even solicit members to these organizations. Michigan and Ohio have made it a misdemeanor for a school officer to fail or refuse to carry out the anti-fraternity law. California, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Oregon, and Vermont prohibit all secret societies in secondary schools. In Washington each school board has State authority for dealing with Greek letter societies according to local conditions.

These undemocratic and un-American institutions should be wiped out of the educational system of this country, and no effort should be spared by supervising officers to see that American schools are kept free from such pests.

### PARENTS' DUTY TO CHILDREN CONCERNING SEX,

price 10 cents, has had such wide circulation that the Congress has

found it necessary to publish another edition. It answers the question every parent must ask—What is my duty?

## The Cause of Unhappy Marriages

By E. S. LOWRY, M.D.

From "Herself"

"WRONG training, or lack of training, in matters pertaining to the relationship of the successors to the management of the home, may be given as the cause of the majority of unhappy marriages.

"There must be something wrong with our system of education when the aim of this education seems to be to prepare the girl for a temporary position in an office or a store or for a gay social life; and when there is no preparation for the important work of home-making and the rearing of children. But the girl is allowed to go blindly into marriage and is expected to manage her home and care for her children with practically no preparation. Nowadays we require experts for every position except that of motherhood, but we apparently do not consider that of enough importance to waste any time preparing for it. A man requires his gardener or office assistant to be trained, but the mother of his children need know nothing regarding the preparation for their coming. Too often her preparation is that of making numerous clothes while she takes no measures to insure a healthy child."

"A girl upon marriage is expected to know by instinct how to keep house, cook, and do other numerous household duties. She is expected to know how to care for herself before the birth of her baby, and to know how to care for the baby when it comes."

"If girls would make a study of home-making and motherhood, and enter into marriage with a more definite realization of its obligations, we would have fewer unhappy marriages and fewer divorce cases. Some women owing to false education wish to have all the advantages of marriage without assuming its cares. Such a woman expects a man to be willing to provide her with all the gifts of the gods, with all the luxuries of life, but in return is not willing to become the mother of his children nor to exert herself to make their mutual habitation a home and not merely a house—a place to eat and sleep."

An interesting commentary on this fact is found in the answers to a series of questions recently sent out to graduates of women's colleges. In reply to the query, "In what respect do you feel that your college education failed to help you?" the conclusion is reached that "where the college fails is in helping the girl to find out early the things that will take a vital hold upon her mind and help it to unfold its possibilities in every way."

"She wants to know, for example, how to make a nutritious, toothsome loaf of bread, how to plan the feeding of a small child, how to give a sponge bath properly, how to ventilate a house; and at college she specialized in anthropology. She says that she shouts with derisive laughter when she remembers the time she

spent upon the manners, morals and myths of the tribes of West Africa."

"What they need and what they want, first of all, are the training and knowledge that will help them to make the most of life for themselves and for those with whom their lot is cast. They need to know how to take care of their own bodies and souls, and, whether they marry or not, how to help others—especially children, who are the special charge of all women—to do the same. They need and want to know how to develop the utmost possibilities of the home for convenience, comfort and beauty."

"Absolutely the most important things for the college woman to

know, say some of them, are the physiology and psychology of the child. And in how many women's colleges to-day is any attempt made to combat the cheerful ignorance of most girls on this subject?

"That there is far too much of book work, of lectures and note-taking, and far too little of actual doing, is another statement of the same criticism. This failure to tie up thought with action is one of the conspicuous faults of the woman's college to-day."

When we have a generation of women enlightened through the reading of books like "*Herself*," we may look for a real education of women.

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## Respect for Childhood

ONE of the common forms of injustice to children is in the parents' failure to respect the belongings of the child. An instance related in a current magazine is as follows: A boy had raised in his own garden some specially splendid heads of lettuce; mother needing them for luncheon when a guest unexpectedly arrived, gathered several heads without waiting to ask the boy's permission. The boy was vexed and was punished for showing it.

In many ways parents are likely to show this disregard of the child's rights, and their appropriation of what belongs to him is certainly not the way to teach him respect for the rights of other people, one of the most important and fundamental lessons of childhood. A child may, of course, be encouraged to wish to share his possessions, such as the products of his little garden, but this is a different thing from confiscating them.

## Aims and Purposes of National Congress of Mothers

To raise the standards of home life. To develop wiser, better-trained parenthood.

To give young people, ignorant of the proper care and training of children, opportunities to learn this, that they may better perform the duties of parenthood.

To bring into closer relations the home and the school, that parent and teacher may co-operate intelligently in the education of the child.

To surround the childhood of the whole world with that loving, wise care in the impressionable years of life, that will develop good citizens, instead of lawbreakers and criminals.

To carry the mother-love and mother-thought into all that concerns or touches childhood in Home, School, Church, State or Legislation.

To interest men and women to co-operate in the work for purer, truer homes, in the belief that to accomplish the best results, men and women must work together.

To secure such legislation as will ensure that children of tender years may not be tried in ordinary courts, but that each town shall establish juvenile courts and special officers whose business it shall be to look out for that care which will rescue, instead of confirm the child in evil ways.

To work for such probationary care in individual homes rather than institutions.

To rouse the whole community to a sense of its duty and responsibility to the blameless, dependent and neglected children, because there is no philanthropy which will so speedily reduce our taxes, reduce our prison expenses, reduce the expense of institutions for correction and reform.

The work of the Congress is civic work in its broadest and highest sense, and every man or woman who is interested in the aims of the Congress is cordially invited to become a member and aid in the organized effort for a higher, nobler national life, which can only be attained through the individual homes.

## EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

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## State News

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

News items from the States must be in the hands of the editorial board by the fifteenth of the previous month to ensure their appearance in the next magazine. The editorial board earnestly asks the attention of every press chairman to the necessity of complying with this rule.

### ANNUAL CONVENTIONS OF STATE BRANCHES NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS AND PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

INDIANA, HUNTINGTON, NOVEMBER 11-12.  
NEW JERSEY, RIVERTON, NOVEMBER 8-9.  
NEW YORK, ROCHESTER, OCTOBER 3-5.  
COLORADO, OCTOBER

OREGON, PORTLAND, OCTOBER 29-30.  
PENNSYLVANIA, GETTYSBURG, OCTOBER 17, 18,  
19.  
TEXAS, HOUSTON, NOVEMBER

### CALIFORNIA.

Though urged by members of the probation party to run for the Assembly, Mrs. A. L. Hamilton, formerly president of the State Mothers' Congress and at present head of the Southern District of the organization, today withdrew from the race, declaring her duty was first to her children and her home, and next her State.

Mrs. Hamilton is the mother of five children.

"I will neglect my home for nothing on earth," continued Mrs. Hamilton. "As one of the leaders of the Mothers' Congress, I could not consistently abandon my home duties to campaign for a political position. Women of the State of California are destined to become a great factor in political affairs, but let them first look to

their hearthside, and when their work is done there they can enter political life." The *New York Sun*, commenting on this says:

"One of the favorite contentions of those opposed to vote for women has been that the enjoyment of the franchise would have a tendency to take women away from their familiar duties in the home. They have painted melancholy pictures of deserted households and forgotten children suffering for the lack of feminine attention while the woman of the family gave all her time to the political game.

"The only way to be certain how a thing is going to work is to give it a trial. In this case California has furnished an example. Mrs. A. L. Hamilton of Pasadena, formerly President of the State Mothers' Congress, was urged to run for the State Assembly, but she has withdrawn from the race, saying that her first duty was to her home and children:

"My advice to women is to keep out of politics until their babies have grown up. Women should take more interest in voting and affairs of State, but let that interest be passive until the little ones at home are able to care for themselves."

"That doesn't sound much as if the privilege of voting had 'gone to the heads' of the California women to such an extent that they were ready to sacrifice everything else in life merely in order to be conspicuous in the public eye. It is just a sane recognition of the fact that there is nothing irreconcilable between the idea of woman the home-maker, and the idea of woman the voter, by a woman who possesses the common sense to reconcile them.

"The entirely wholesome woman does not neglect her home and children in a State where she is allowed to participate in politics any more than in a State where she has not the ballot. The other sort of woman, no matter where she lives or what her political convictions are, is not to be taken as representing the majority of her sex.

"The enfranchisement of all the women in America would doubtless bring with it certain problems. But women in general may be depended upon to work them out for themselves quietly, simply and without any renunciation of their essential womanliness or any shirking of their domestic duties."

#### IOWA

The Committee on Education of the Iowa Congress of Mothers suggests the following:

That a Child-Welfare Conference be held in every county in the state, and that the County Superintendent and City Superintendent in every county-seat co-operate with this committee to the end that such a Conference be held.

In order to secure a delegation of representative people, interested in the cause of childhood, it is suggested that every town or city in the county be represented by a delegate appointed by the Mayor; every school by a teacher and a parent appointed by the City Superintendent; every district school by a teacher and a parent appointed by the County Superintendent; every church by its minister; every woman's club, mothers' club and parent-teachers' association also represented by appointed delegates.

Believing that "home, school and church" are the three greatest educational agencies in the development of the child, and that the effective co-ordination of their work is of the highest importance, a desirable and unique program can be arranged that will bring parent, teacher and the clergy closer together in their common interests.

The County Superintendent, together with the City Superintendent, the local committee and the Mayor of the place in which the Conference is held, may arrange such a program of one or two days' sessions, as shall best serve the interests and needs of their county.

The committee has the endorsement of President H. H. Seerley, State Teachers College; Dr. Frederick Bolton, School of Education, State University; Miss Neale Knowles, Department of Extension, State Agricultural College; Prof. Walter Athearn, Religious Education, Drake University; Hon. A. M. Deyoe, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and others.

The committee invites the co-operation of every child-welfare agency in the State, to the end that there may be fuller appreciation of Iowa's best asset, the Child.

The committee offers its services by the way of suggesting programs, securing speakers, and presenting the work of the Congress through its various committees, and to assist in every way possible in promoting conferences on Child Welfare.

(Mrs. A. O.) MARTHA O. RUSTE,  
Chairman, Educational Committee,

June 1, 1912 Charles City, Iowa.

#### MASSACHUSETTS

The reports from the organizations show much progress, and also show that the practical help, which is so valuable in a community, is by no means neglected.

A few of the things accomplished by our different associations may be suggestive.

*Andover Mothers' Club* enabled ten children to attend summer school; also gave money to assist the district nurse fund.

*Chatham Street Parent-Teacher Association* at Lynn has hired a teacher to instruct mothers in home millinery; also has \$50 to improve playgrounds of school building.

*Leicester Parent-Teacher Association* furnished material for school boys to make an emergency cabinet. Hired a teacher of sewing and light manual work for the public schools. Also gave \$100 for furnishing apparatus for playgrounds.

*Newburyport South End Parent-Teacher Association* has bought a desk and pictures for the school room. Also furnished material for schools to repair the walks around Jackman School.

*Cherry Valley Parent-Teacher Association* has incorporated the passbook system of school savings bank. A teacher of sewing is hired by them also.

*Haverhill Congress of Mothers* has distributed literature of practical help among the mothers and teachers.

*Mansfield Parent-Teacher Association* has placed apparatus in the school playgrounds.

*Holyoke Mothers' Club* has established a milk depot for the babies. It has been so successful that the Mayor of the city has recently incorporated the milk station under the city expenses.

*Bradford Parent-Teacher Association* at Cogswell School succeeded in securing the removal of scraggly pine trees from the school yard and increased the dimensions of the playground. This matter has been attempted by citizens in official positions many times in the past few years. But when the mothers undertook it the entire work was accomplished in just ten days.

The chairman of Child Labor Law of Massachusetts Congress of Mothers, Mrs. E. P. Kirschner, of Malden, sent in an active report. The messenger bill, to exclude boys under 21 years of age from the messenger service after 10 P.M., was passed with one amendment, "that messages be allowed to be delivered by young boys at all newspaper offices."

This bill attracted much attention, as it was based upon an investigation which demonstrated beyond question the use of messenger boys as go-betweens in improper places.

At the business meeting it was voted that Mr. Arthur P. Briggs take the chairmanship of the Playground Committee.

It is interesting to note that since the convention at Lynn, the interest aroused in that city has not been soon dissipated, but has developed into a most interesting and profitable meeting calling together over a thousand of Lynn's fathers and mothers to extend these associations throughout the city. The association at Shepard Street School started this movement. May the good work continue to prosper until every father, mother, teacher and interested outsider in Child Welfare belongs to this body of organized workers for uplifting childhood.

Massachusetts has a right to feel proud of the bond of loyalty which exists among the organization. The recent State Convention depleted the treasury for the

present, yet we felt that a delegate must be sent to the National Convention at St. Louis. Each organization was asked to contribute a small sum. The kind spirit of co-operation and help was so apparent in the prompt replies that it enabled us to send a delegate to St. Louis.

IVANETTA W. SMITH,  
Chairman of Press Committee.

## NEW JERSEY

The semi-annual council meeting of the New Jersey Congress of Mothers met to discuss methods and problems and to arrange plans for the next six months. The council consists of the officers, Board of Managers, chairmen of committees and the president or a representative of every club affiliated and in membership.

There have been two valuable additions to the Advisory Board, Dr. Calvin S. Kendall, State Commissioner of Education, and Dr. Alexander Marcy, Jr., president of the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Social Diseases.

The Child Hygiene Committee has arranged for large educational meetings, to be held at Camden, Atlantic City, Trenton, Plainfield and other centres, to increase public interest in two of the most important phases of its work: Infant Mortality and Social Hygiene. The best speakers have been obtained for the meetings, with the hope that the interest thus awakened will arouse our workers to intelligent action.

The Rural Child Welfare Committee reports organization in Home Culture Work for Girls in five counties. The Home Culture Club was started as an experiment in a small way in Burlington County last fall. This work has been endorsed by the State and County Boards of Education and of Agriculture. The County Committee is offering prizes this year for bread, cookies and corn bread, patching and darning, four classes of plain sewing and two classes of fancy sewing. The County Board of Education has offered a prize to the school sending the greatest number of successful competitors to the exhibition in the fall, and the County Board of Agriculture has offered a prize to the girl making the best bread. This work is being done in connection with the corn-growing contests for boys which have been organized by the County Y. M. C. A.'s.

Trenton, in addition to its educational meetings, is working actively in the Social Centre movement. The Cook School Club gave a concert on February 17—Founders' Day—and raised money to open the school one evening a week for social purposes.

Atlantic City Mothers' Club has held two meetings for child-welfare, one addressed by Mrs. Alexander Marcy, Jr., and one by Mrs. Frederic Schoff.

Plainfield is conducting a course of lectures in the High School on Child Hygiene. They have appointed friendly visitors in every school to visit the homes of children needing especial care. Plainfield has also organized a Legislative Committee, of which the Mayor is a member, to discuss the subject of school legislation and needed improvement.

The Porch Club of Riverton has arranged a dancing class in the public school, one evening a week, and is active in making the school a social centre.

The Child Welfare Department of the Borough Improvement League of Metuchen has just organized a large Parent-Teacher Association in Metuchen.

## NEW YORK

Members of the Mothers' Club of Buffalo took active part in making the Child-Welfare Exhibit held in Buffalo, a great educational success. The cooked food Exhibit prepared by Mrs. T. B. Carpenter which demonstrated the proper breakfasts for children from two to four, from four to eight and from eight to twelve years of age, attracted much attention. The tables were kept immaculate, the food was fresh, and properly cooked by the Domestic Science department of a near by public school. The comparative value of foods in bulk and in packages was an eye opener to many who have carefully to count the cost. Screens showing photographs of healthy, properly fed children and perfectly nourished children were shown. There were screens giving the food value of eggs and their equivalent in cereals and meats, also screens giving the poisons found in foods and highly colored candies.

In the Home Occupations department, in charge of Mrs. Eli T. Hosmer were shown many suggestions for home work of boys and girls, from paper cutting, clay modeling, and weaving, to elaborate basketry, needlework, and models for kites. The art of book binding with all necessary equipment was shown. A fine demonstration of box-making was very attractive, especially as this work is being introduced in schools.

The model three-room cottage, neatly—even daintily furnished at a cost of \$135.00 for a family of five living on an income of \$900.00 a year, was full of suggestions to home makers. Mrs. Edward F. Dold and her able assistants were in attendance.

The Child-welfare exhibit was attended by large numbers of people from all walks in life, and Buffalo should reap much benefit from this educational campaign.

The Mothers' Club of Buffalo, N. Y., has honored a former President, Mrs. Edward F. Dold, by making her a Life Member of the Mothers' Assembly of the State of New York.

## OHIO

The Cleveland Congress of Mothers in co-operation with other associations has entered the earnest protest against the action of the school board in a change of text books in the schools.

It is claimed that politics was the cause for this change, and that it will entail an expense to the pupils of elementary schools of \$34,400 per year.

The action of the school board in awarding the contracts is the signal for a nationwide movement against the Ginn books, according to Cleveland printers.

The former President of the Board of Education Frank Haserot stated at a meeting of the Cleveland Mothers' Congress that the award of book contracts always had been bound up with elections to school positions and changes of superintendents.

## OREGON

The Oregon Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers' Associations met for a conference at the University of Oregon at Eugene in connection with the Summer School June 24 to August 2. The topics were "The Problem of Sex Education," "School Ventilation and the Open-air School," "Medical Inspection of School Children," "Play and Playgrounds," "The School as a Social Centre," "The Reorganization of Common School Work." Mr. Robert H. Tate presided, and the speakers were leaders in educational work.

Regarding play and playgrounds, skilled instructors and scientific supervision was urged. It is vastly better to make a small start in scientific effort than to make a great effort without considering the scientific child development. Personal touch is the secret of all advancement.

Moving pictures and educational films were urged for our schools; 10,000 educational films have already been catalogued by National Censorship Committee.

Country Life was ably presented by Mrs. G. R. Stephenson, President of the Parent-Teacher Circles advocating the School as a social centre.

Library Session: The educational theme under many heads was widely discussed. It was conceded that we need an efficient public sentiment toward better school laws—and that we are scarcely in the twilight dawn of educational progress. Reorganization of school work is a great need today. Too much time is wasted on the unnecessary parts of courses in study.

Dr. A. A. Berle, Boston, Professor of Applied Christianity in Tufts College, always spoke to a very large audience. Two sessions were held for the Congress of Mothers and a number of others for the Summer School Students. More physical liberty in school room was urged, long vacations were considered detrimental to

educational advancement. Better a week's vacation every seventh week the year round. The child's vacation should be determined when it needs it most. Mothers were advised to have atlas in living room and point out places of events as given in newspaper. In this way children will learn much geography before school age.

Dr. Berle's three children were ready for College at fourteen. The fourth child enters Harvard in September at the age of eleven.

The Oregon Congress was invited to attend the meeting of the Oregon Library Club where buying children's books was discussed.

Mrs. Tate has been appointed Collaborator for the Good Roads Department, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The six Parent-Teacher Associations of Eugene will join the Congress in the Fall. Our new Year-Books will be ready soon.

### TEXAS

The pure food committee received report from Dr. Abbott, Dairy and Food Commissioner, on certain goods sent to him for examination. The report was gratifying, as it showed that all the articles submitted represented pure food.

This committee has met regularly each month since January, and has endeavored by means of a petition to the Mayor and City Council to secure the passage of an ordinance which would insure sanitary conditions and strict cleanliness in all meat markets and among fruit, vegetable and candy dealers. This petition, heartily endorsed by the Board of Health, was referred to a committee from which as yet no report has been received.

A petition was also sent to the School Board, asking that the common drinking cup be abolished. A sample was enclosed of a cup that even the youngest children can easily make of tablet paper. Professor Lukin agreed to discuss the drinking cup question with the principals.

A request from the Self-culture Club that the Congress would examine into the subject of short weights and measures was referred to the pure food committee. This committee found that both a State law and a city ordinance exist making it punishable by fine to sell short weight or measure. The committee, therefore, recommends that consumers demand correct weight and measure and refer to the law, with which the dealers will and must comply.

The committee hopes to point to results accomplished in another year, and that San Antonio may lead the cities of Texas in furnishing clean, wholesome, unadulterated food.

The seventeen mothers' clubs of San Antonio were represented at the meeting and

reported on the work of the year. These reports showed that the clubs had done much good work and grown remarkably in membership. Among those submitted were:

#### Beacon Hill Club report:

The Beacon Hill Parent-teacher Club has established a firm foundation of interested membership concerned chiefly with the uplift of the child. The roll has been enlarged at every monthly session of the club.

The hostesses who have served during the social hours of the meetings this year have been faithful in their duties and have always provided something homemade on their simple means.

A representation from the Beacon Hill Club has attended every session of the Southwestern Parent-teachers' Association and its members have been active in the work of the association.

The School Board has received a petition from this organization urging that the capacity of the present four-room structure be increased to relieve the crowded condition of the school.

#### The Fannin School Club:

Had two garden parties, at which a total of \$169 was cleared. Formed a mutual benefit society for helping needy children of district.

Distributed 250 garments among the school children.

Spent \$24.65 building pergola from school door. With money on hand will buy pictures and otherwise beautify school.

The Milam School Parent-teacher Club has met on the fourth Friday in each month with good attendance and much interest. It numbers about fifty members. Good lectures have been given at the meetings by Miss Pirie, Mrs. Daugherty, Dr. Duggan and a number of others. The members have turned their attention to beautifying the school grounds and getting pictures for the walls.

Report of the chairman of the outlook committee of the Parent-teachers' Association:

The outlook committee investigated the moving picture and vaudeville shows of San Antonio, and its members interested themselves in various phases of work for the good of the children and the public. The report was submitted by Mrs. A. C. McDaniel, chairman.

The M. Eleanor Brackenridge School Mothers' Club have spent an active club season. They purchased six pictures and framed them for the adornment of the school, at a total cost of \$63. They contributed \$5 toward entertaining the Women's Club and \$5 to the Free Kindergarten Association. They cleared \$148.98 at the annual lawn fete. Submitted by Mrs. J. M. Olivarri, president.

#### The Travis School Mothers' Club:

The members of the Travis School Club secured a new piano for the school.

The San Antonio Council of the National Congress of Mothers met recently with the members of the School Board and principals of five public schools to discuss the school hours question.

The School Board promulgated an order extending the daily school sessions to 4 P.M. from 3.30. The mothers protested against the longer school day and a large committee of mothers presented their appeal to the School Board. The meeting of mothers, principals and school board is one of the important results of the Mothers' Congress work in forming parent-teacher associations. The schools cannot do the best work unless they have the opportunity to hear the views of thinking mothers on the school system and its effect on the children.

The meeting was an earnest one and the School Board will later submit a proposition satisfactory to the mothers and the Board.

The annual convention of the Texas Branch of the Congress will be held in Houston in November.

#### WASHINGTON

At the recent State convention of the Washington Branch National Congress of Mothers in speaking of the Officers' council, an essential part of the Mothers' congress and Parent-Teachers' associations, Mrs. Elwell Hoyt said:

"The Officers' council is like the hub which holds the spokes of a wheel in place. Without it all of our circles would be working in disconnected individual ways and would accomplish only a small per cent of the good we have been able to do with the aid of the concentrated purpose of the Officers' council."

One mother in every city in the State who will make it a point to watch all legislation, and particularly that in which the congress is interested, to be assisted in her work by letters written by mothers from all sections to their respective legislators, will prove a legislative force that would sweep before it needed reforms in child-welfare work, in the opinion of Mrs. C. E. Bogardus of Seattle, who presented this plan to the Washington State Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers' Associations. This plan is recommended to the consideration of each State Congress.

The report of delegates from all over the State was extremely enlightening. It was shown that such work as a State-wide observance of Child-Welfare day; increased interest in school elections—in the case of Oak Lane raising the vote from a former maximum of 28 to 120—; education in school requirements, resulting in one case in the voting of a \$20,000 bond which had formerly been rejected by the people; installation of agricultural and domestic science departments in high and grammar

schools; increased social activity and friendly intercourse between foreign and American born parents; education along lines of ventilation, sanitation and nutrition; social hygiene and eugenics, and many other interesting and helpful lines were shown to have sprung directly out of the active co-operation of parents and teachers through the agency of the Parent-Teachers' Associations.

In recognition of her faithful service as organizer and first president of the Washington Mothers Congress, Mrs. Frank R. Hill was made Honorary President and life member of the State Executive Committee. This ensures the permanent benefit of her wide experience to the Washington Congress.

#### WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Branch National Congress of Mothers has arranged a Baby's Health Contest at the Auditorium in Milwaukee in connection with the Household Show. A lecture room and examination room and help from physicians and nurses have been secured free, also all printing and advertising.

The contest opens September 9 and continues six days. The first hour each day is given to entries, the second for examination, the third for lectures on infant hygiene. An exhibit of baby's clothing and food has been prepared. Mrs. Watts of Iowa will assist Mrs. Betts, President of Wisconsin Congress, in the contest giving daily lectures.

Mr. Carroll Pearse Supt. of Milwaukee Schools will call together the principals of the city and adjoining towns in September to recommend the establishment of Parent-Teacher Associations in all their schools. The High School wants such an Association. Eleven hundred pupils attend, and the teachers are hoping that the Parents Association may find something to replace the secret society, cheap theatre, and simplify the evils of over-dressing. The work is growing very satisfactorily, with effective sincere co-operation between the Congress, the State Teachers Association and Wisconsin University.

#### SOME BOOKS MOTHERS WILL FIND HELPFUL.

1. A STUDY OF CHILD NATURE, *Elizabeth Harrison*. Price \$1.00.
2. MISUNDERSTOOD CHILDREN, *Elizabeth Harrison*. Price \$1.00.
3. CHILDHOOD, *Mrs. Theodore W. Birney*.
4. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, *Kate Douglas Wiggin*. Price \$1.00.
5. BITS OF TALK ABOUT HOME MATTERS, *Helen Hunt Jackson*. Price \$1.00.
6. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD, *Nathan Oppenheim, M.D.* Price \$1.25.
7. MENTAL GROWTH AND CONTROL, *Nathan Oppenheim, M.D.*

8. PARENTHOOD AND RACE CULTURE, Charles D. Saleeby, M.D.

9. ADOLESCENCE, G. Stanley Hall, Ph.D., 2 Vols., \$7.00.

10. EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS, G. Stanley Hall, Ph.D., 2 Vols., \$7.00.

11. THE MOTHER ARTIST, Jane Dearborn Mills, Price \$1.00.

12. THE MONTESSORI METHOD, Maria Montessori.

13. EDUCATION, Herbert Spencer.

14. THE HOME KINDERGARTEN, Nora Smith.

15. THE CARE AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN, Dr. L. Emmett Holt.

16. THE CARE OF THE BABY, Dr. J. P. Crozier Griffith.

17. LIBRARY OF HOME ECONOMICS, 12 volumes.

Orders may be sent to National Congress of Mothers, 806 Loan & Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

## The National Congress of Mothers

### NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

THE National Education Association has among many other departments one on School Patrons which is under the management of five affiliated national organizations, by whose official request it was organized in 1907.

Mrs. O. Shepard Barnum of Los Angeles has been President for the last two years. At the conference in Chicago Mrs. W. S. Hefferan, formerly president of Illinois Congress of Mothers, was elected President, Mrs. Rudolph Blankenburg Vice-President, and Mrs. Hertz Secretary.

The co-operation of women's national organizations in educational work in association with National Educational Associations was first suggested by Miss Mary Abbott of Connecticut at a meeting of the American Institute in Portland, Maine. A meeting was held there to consider it—and with the unanimous approval of the women's organizations Miss Abbott, herself a teacher as well as President of the Connecticut Federation, worked earnestly to secure the establishment of this department. The enthusiasm and interest she felt in bringing into co-operation and unified effort the strong forces then working without co-operation or consultation

led her to give much time to accomplishing her purpose.

She would naturally have been the first President of the new department, but just as the National Educational Association granted the petition of the women's organizations Miss Abbott died, leaving to others the duty of inaugurating her cherished plans.

The National Congress of Mothers with its desire to have a parent-teacher association in every school has deep interest in this department, and comes in close touch with the schools throughout the whole country.

Mrs. DeGarmo was one of the speakers in the Rural School Department, where the work for good roads goes hand in hand with school improvement.

A luncheon was given by the Patrons' Department at Blackstone Hotel. Over 300 attended. Miss Breckenridge of University of Chicago was toast mistress and among the list of speakers were: Dr. P. P. Claxton, Commissioner of Education, Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, Mrs. C. S. Barnum, Miss Sarah Louise Arnold, Mr. Carroll Pearse and Dr. David Starr Jordan.

## Helps for Programs, and for Parents

Literature and loan papers on child nurture will be loaned to anyone in any place for twenty cents each, on application to the Corresponding Secretary, 806 Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C. Orders should be given some time in advance of need, and the character of the paper desired as well as its title should be indicated. Papers may be retained three weeks, and should be returned unfolded. They are all by specialists, speakers or writers who could be secured in person only at great expense. Sets of twelve neatly typewritten papers, carefully selected to form a connected program for twelve meetings, will be sent on receipt of \$2.00. The character of work desired should be indicated in application. The topics of these sets are printed from time to time in the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

Communications requiring an answer should be accompanied with a two-cent stamp.